



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Item of footwear [[[1)]] intended for sports, ~~in particular motorcycleing~~, comprising:

- a first rigid shell which defines a body [[[2)]] which is intended to receive the foot of a user and which extends in an ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction [[[8)]]],

- a second rigid shell which defines an upper [[[4)]] which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction [[[10)]]], and

- an articulation [[[6)]] which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing rotation of the upper relative to the body in two axes of rotation ~~(8, 12)~~ which are substantially perpendicular to each other, ~~characterised in that~~

the articulation comprising at least at least two flexible strips forming a resiliently deformable element which tends to move the item of footwear into an initial position,

each flexible strips being substantially V-shaped or U-shaped so that each flexible strip comprises two branches, each branch comprising a first end and a second end, the first ends of each flexible strip being connected to each other and the second ends of each flexible strip being connected, in the case of one

of the branches, to the body and, in the case of the other branch, to the upper, so that said articulation ~~further~~ allows translation of the axes of articulation relative to the body in order to bring the axes of rotation of the articulation substantially into alignment with the axes of rotation of the foot relative to the leg of the user.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim [[2]] 1, characterised in that, with the item of footwear having an inner face [[(1a)]] and an outer face [[(1b)]] which extend at one side and the other of a centre plane [[(P)]] which is defined by the ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction [[(8)]] and the upright direction [[(10)]], each resiliently deformable element ~~(14, 14')~~ is positioned at the inner face [[(1a)]] or the outer face [[(1b)]] of the item of footwear, substantially level with the malleolus of the foot of the user.

4. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, characterised in that the articulation comprises two resiliently deformable elements ~~(14, 14')~~ which are arranged symmetrically relative to the centre plane [[(P)]], one at the inner face [[(1a)]], the other at the outer face [[(1b)]], at both sides of the ankle of the user.

5. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, characterised in that the two resiliently deformable elements ~~(14, 14')~~ have different mechanical properties.

6. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim [[2]] 1, characterised in that each ~~resiliently deformable element comprises at least a~~ flexible strip ~~having~~ has an inwardly curved shape in the absence of any external stress.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim [[7]] 1, characterised in that it further comprises a resiliently deformable material [[(36)]] which is different from that of the branches and which extends between the branches of at least some of the flexible strips.

9. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim [[2]] 1, characterised in that the articulation further comprises at least a pivot ~~(24, 26)~~ which is interposed between the body and the upper and which guides the rotation of the upper relative to the body about a transverse direction [[(12)]] which is substantially perpendicular to the ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction and the upright direction.

10. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, characterised in that, with the upright direction and the ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction defining a centre plane, the item of footwear further comprises stops for limiting the extent of rotation ~~( $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ )~~ in the centre plane to a value of between 50° and 60°.

11. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, characterised in that it further comprises stops for limiting the extent of rotation ~~( $\theta_1$ ,  $\theta_2$ )~~ in the ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction to a value of between 25° and 35°.

12. (previously presented) Item of footwear according to claim 1, characterised in that said articulation allows translation only in the upright direction.

13. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, characterised in that the two axes of articulation ~~( $\theta_1$ ,  $\theta_2$ )~~ are substantially perpendicular to the upright direction   
 [[(10)]].

14. (previously presented) Item of footwear according to claim 1, characterised in that the extent of translation of the axes of articulation relative to the body is between 5 millimetres and 15 millimetres.

15. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, characterised in that each ~~resiliently deformable element comprises at least a~~ flexible strip ~~having~~ has an inwardly curved shape in the absence of any external stress.

16. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, characterised in that each ~~resiliently deformable element comprises at least a~~ flexible strip ~~having~~ has an inwardly curved shape in the absence of any external stress.

17. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 5, characterised in that each ~~resiliently deformable element comprises at least a~~ flexible strip ~~having~~ has an inwardly curved shape in the absence of any external stress.

18. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, characterised in that the articulation further comprises at least a pivot ~~(24, 26)~~ which is interposed between the body and the upper and which guides the rotation of the upper relative to the body about a transverse direction ~~[(12)]~~ which is substantially perpendicular to the ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction and the upright direction.

19. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 4, characterised in that the articulation further comprises

at least a pivot ~~(24, 26)~~ which is interposed between the body and the upper and which guides the rotation of the upper relative to the body about a transverse direction  $[(12)]$  which is substantially perpendicular to the ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction and the upright direction.

20. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 5, characterised in that the articulation further comprises at least a pivot ~~(24, 26)~~ which is interposed between the body and the upper and which guides the rotation of the upper relative to the body about a transverse direction  $[(12)]$  which is substantially perpendicular to the ~~extension~~ longitudinal direction and the upright direction.

21. (new) Item of footwear intended for sports, comprising:

a first rigid shell which defines a body which is intended to receive the foot of a user and which extends in an longitudinal direction,

a second rigid shell which defines an upper which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction, and

- an articulation which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing rotation of the upper relative

to the body in two axes of rotation which are substantially perpendicular to each other,

the articulation comprising at least a resiliently deformable element which tends to move the item of footwear into an initial position,

each resiliently deformable element comprises at least a flexible strip having an inwardly curved shape in the absence of any external stress,

each resiliently deformable element comprising two flexible strips which are substantially V-shaped or U-shaped so that each flexible strip comprises two branches, each comprising a first end and a second end, the first ends of each flexible strip being connected to each other and the second ends of each flexible strip being connected, in the case of one of the branches, to the body and, in the case of the other branch, to the upper, wherein,

said articulation allows translation of the axes of articulation relative to the body in order to bring the axes of rotation of the articulation substantially into alignment with the axes of rotation of the foot relative to the leg of the user.